



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commission on Youth

Delegate Christopher K. Peace, *Chair*
Senator Barbara A. Favola, *Vice Chair*

Executive Director
Amy M. Atkinson

General Assembly Building
201 N. 9th Street, Suite 269
Richmond, Virginia 23219-0406

804-371-2481
FAX 804-371-0574
<http://vcoy.virginia.gov>

December 5, 2014

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Lieutenant Governor of Virginia
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
P. O. Box 1195
Richmond, VA 23218

Subject: Early Childhood Education – Workgroup on Quality

Dear Lieutenant Governor Northam:

I am writing regarding a legislative initiative recently conducted by the Virginia Commission on Youth. You may recall that the Commission convened the Early Childhood Education Workgroup on Quality on June 17 at the Capitol. The Workgroup brought together representatives from the General Assembly, the Executive Branch, the business community, and impacted stakeholders to investigate ways Virginia could invest in high-quality early childhood education. Attached is a copy of the Commission's Study Plan for your review.

The Workgroup identified that high-quality early childhood education is critical to success in school and to the future workforce. Investments in high-quality early education have demonstrated a \$7-10 return. In addition, there will be several opportunities over the coming year to enhance licensure and regulatory requirements in early learning. For example, the reauthorization of the federal *Child Care and Development Block Grant* (CCDBG) offers the opportunity to examine ways to link quality improvement with standards/regulations for early learning providers.

At the Commission's meeting on December 2, 2014, members, including Gubernatorial appointees, adopted a recommendation to be shared with the Executive Branch. This recommendation is outlined herein:

Request the Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success to investigate the development of a child care system where all providers, including home-based providers, be required to obtain a child care license and present on its activities to the Commission on Youth prior to the 2016 General Assembly Session.

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The Commission respectfully requests your careful consideration of this recommendation. Please feel free to contact me or Mrs. Amy Atkinson, Executive Director, at 804-371-2481 or aatkinson@vcoy.virginia.gov, if you have any questions or if you wish to schedule a meeting to discuss this study recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christopher K. Peace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".

Christopher K. Peace

Enclosure

cc: Holly Coy
Amy M. Atkinson